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Contact: Kristin Alexander (360) 902-9307, pager: (360) 455-6301

Employment Partners Ready to Assist Brewery and Workers

The Washington State Employment Security Department is readying to help employees who could be affected by SAB/Miller Brewing Company's announcement that it plans to close its Tumwater plant by July 1.

"The closure of the Tumwater brewery is sad news for the company, community and workers," said Gary Gallwas, head of the department's Employment and Training Division. "Employment Security and our workforce development partners are fully committed to assisting the company and employees during this transition. We hope to quickly begin collaborative efforts to help affected workers find new jobs and receive unemployment benefits to support them until their next paycheck."

SAB/Miller announced today that it plans to close the Tumwater plant. Production will be phased out between now and the closing date.

Employment Security staff learned today of the expected layoff and are still gathering information. Gallwas said the department and its partners, which include WorkSource, the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and area colleges, are eager to begin discussions with company officials and union representatives to develop a strategy to provide services to affected workers. Services may include job placement assistance, informational workshops about unemployment benefits, and job retraining, if needed.

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development is also working to provide technical assistance and support for the community and workers.

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